

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

IO-11 /079 W

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R 021331Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 892

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS--NO ISRAELI COMMITMENT AGAINST FURTHER
SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

REF: TEL AVIV 2333

1. DAVAR (BLOCH) AND HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) REPORT APRIL 2 THAT
"OFFICIAL ISRAELI SOURCES" HAVE DENIED WASHINGTON BASED STORIES
ACCORDING TO WHICH ISRAEL HAD PROMISED THE U.S. THAT IT WOULD
DESIST FROM FURTHER SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK (REFTTEL).
IF INDEED THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE SUCH
STATEMENTS TO KING HUSSEIN, THEY WRITE, FROM THE GOI VIEWPOINT
THERE WAS NO FOUNDATION TO SUCH COMMITMENTS.

2. DAVAR'S BLOCH CONTINUES BY NOTING THAT THE CABINET
ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL AUTHORIZE NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE COURSE
OF THE DISCUSSION LATER THIS MONTH ON SETTLEMENT POLICY. HE
NOTES THAT "SETTLEMENT AUTHORITIES" HAVE DRAWN UP PLANS FOR
ABOUT 40 SETTLEMENTS, ABOUT HALF OF THEM WITHIN THE GREEN
LINE AND THE OTHER HALF IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES--
PARTICULARLY THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, RAFAH JUNCTION, THE JORDAN
VALLEY AND JUDEA. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING
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SETTLEMENTS IN SAMARIA. THE CABINET WILL HAVE TO DECIDE ON
THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES AND THE PACE OF NEW SETTLEMENTS AS

WELL AS THE FUTURE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL SETTLEMENT AT QADOUM.

3. BLOCH ASSESSES THAT THE CABINET WILL NOT AUTHORIZE A SETTLEMENT AT QADOUM OR NEARBY BUT WILL INSTEAD PROPOSE THAT THE GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS AT ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

4. MINISTER WITHOUT PROTFOLIO GALILI, CHARMAN OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS, TOLD REPORTERS APRIL 1 THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED STATES TO DESIST FROM SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY. "I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEWS ITSELF AS AUTHORIZED TO HINT OR TO MAKE PROMISES REGARDING THE CESSATION OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY." SUCH DECISIONS ARE REACHED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO ITS OWN INDEPENDENT CONSIDERATIONS. GALILI ALSO REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S MARCH 31 KNESSET STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID, INTER ALIA, "JUST AS CERTAIN UTTERANCES AND EVEN DENUNCIATIONS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO PREVENT US FROM DOING WHAT WE HAVE TO DO ON SETTLEMENT IN THE AREAS, WE MUST NOT BE DRAWN INTO A 'POLICY OF REFLEXES' BUT MUST CONTINUE TO GO OUR WAY, GUIDED BY OUR SECURITY INTERESTS, AS WE SEE THEM. FOR IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS OUR OWN FATE WHICH IS AT STAKE."
TOON

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